

ARTICLES

OF

Information and Enquiry

Concerning MATTERS
Relating to his own or to another's Estate.

Ecclesiastical:

EXHIBITED

Ministers, Church-wardens, and Side-men of
every Parish within the

Diocese of Peterborough.

RIGHT REV. WILLIAM

Right Reverend Father in God

WILLIAM

By Divine Permission

BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH



The Form of the Oath of Chur-
wardens and Side-men.

YOU shall swear, Truly and Faithfully
to Execute the Office of Church-
Warden, (or Side-man) within
your Parish; and according to the best of your
skill and knowledge, Present such Things
and Persons, as to your knowledge are Present-
able by the Laws Ecclesiastical of this Realm.

So help you GOD, and the Contents of this
BOOK.



ARTICLES O F Visitation and Enquiry WITHIN THE DIOCESS of Peterborough.

TITUL I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments, and Furniture thereunto belonging.

I. In your Parish-Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair: Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile or Slate? the Windows well glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fashioned, and conveniently placed: and all things so decently ordered, as becoming the House of God?

II. hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, any of the Lead or Wells sold or belonging thereto been embezzled, sold or made away? In what hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof, remain?

III. Is there a Font of Stone standing in the usual place for publick Baptism, and doth your Minister therein publicly Baptize what you know or have heard therein.

IV. Doth your Minister to read Divine Service in; A Pulpit Can. 82. Can. 83. A Bible of the last Can. 80. & a timely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Book of Common Prayer, translation in a large Volume, and the Book of Common Prayer,

Can. 85.

Lind. Prov.
Conf. lib 3,
de immunitat.
Ecclesiz.

Articles of Visitation.

14. Can. 2. (established by the late Act of Parliament) both well and substantially bound? Habe you likewise the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority? Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? and a printed Table of the Degrees wherein marriage is prohibited?
- Ex Conf. Ca-
nons.
- Can. 99.
- Can. 58.
- Can. 70.
- V. Habe you a comely large Supplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministry in the Church, prohibited, and to be duly washed at the charge of your Parish?
- VI. Habe you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish, together with the names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the Day, Month, and Year of all such Christenings, Marriages and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25. of March, brought into the Bishopps Ministry?
- 22.000
- Can. 52.
- VII. Habe you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licences of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Account together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Book, and all the aforesaid Furniture, in safe Custody: and lastly, habe you a Bier, with a black Veare-Cloth for the Burial of the Dead?
- Can. 89.

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

- Can. 85.
- I. Is your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with walls, Hedges, or Palis, and decently kept from the annoyances of Swine, Goats and other Cattle? hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? habe any trees there growing cut down, how long since, by whom, and to whose use and benefit?
35. Ed. 1.

- Lond. Lib. 1. de Offic. Archid.
23. Ed. 1.
- II. Is the house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate (with all the Out-houses thereto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or have any of the said Houses or Out-houses been defaced or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Clois, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage-house? or cut up any Trees growing

Articles of Visitation.

13

xxviiij. Whether you have changed or remembred the ancient Mynes, and
Grauntz of the same? Ibid. de Eccles.
Edif.

xxviii. Habe you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, Gartens,
Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your
parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Parsonages, Man-
sions, and Portions of Littles, or other yearly Benefits (either
within or without your Parish) as belonget therewarde. Habe any of
the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, or you
whom, or habe heard?

xxix. Note any of the ancient Glebelands belonging to your
parsonage or Vicarage been taken away, or exchanged for other,
without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the
Sovereyn, or whom hath the same been made, and how many years
since? And how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage diminished
now in the yearly value thereof? as you knowe, holiste, or habe
had?

xxx. Habe any dying in your Parish giben any Legacy to the
Churche, or Poor, and hath it been misemployed, or disposed of to
other uses?

Lind. lib. 2. de
rebus Ecclesi.

T I T. III. Concerning Ministers.

xxxi. Is your Minister defamed, or suspected to have obtained either
his Benefice or Orders by any Dimoniacal compact?

xxii. Is your Minister (so far as you knowe or believe) in Holie
Orders according to the Church of England. Q. Eliz. In-
junct. 26. Can. 36.

xxiii. Did he late bin two Months after his Induction, publickly in
Church, upon some Sunday or Holie-day, in the time of Di- Lind. lib. 3.
rector read the 39 Articles of the Church of England etc. Q. Eliz.
Can. 12.

xxiv. Hath he Authority, and there publickly declare his assent there-

xxv. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly Can. 41.
lived upon his Benefice among you? How many weeks in one
year hath he been absent from it?

xxvi. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? Who is that Can. 47. & 48.
Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the
Church of England? and doth he serue in any other Church be-
sides what yearly stipend doth your Minister alleate him?

VI. Deth

Articles of Visitation.

VI. Dost your Parson, Vicar, or Curate diligently attend upon his Ministry, in reading the Lessons and Prayers, Preaching the Word, Administering the Sacrament, Catechizing the Youth, Visiting the Sick, and in all other the Offices of his Ministerial Function, in such manner and form as is directed by the Book of Common Prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity therewith published, and dost be in the reading or celebrating every Office in your Church or Chappel wear the Surplice.

VII. Dost your Minister give notice of the Holidays, and of the Ember Weeks, that the people may be minded to pray for such as are to be duly and solemnly called to the work of the Ministry? as also of the yearly perambulation in Rogation week, for presenting the Bounds of the Parish, and for desiring Gods blessing upon the fruits of the earth? dost he also obserbe the fifth of November, the thirtieth of January, and the twenty ninth of May, according to the Statutes and Ordners set forth in that behalf?

VIII. Dost your Minister every year in your Church or Chappel publish the Statute made against profane Swearing and cursing, and against the Prophanation of the Lords day, according as it is thereby enacted, 21 Jac. 20. Cap. 29. Car. 2.

Can. 48. IX. Hath your Minister been Licensed to Preach by the Bishop? If so, dost he then constantly (unless in case of sickness necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself Preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed be hindred by sickness or otherwise, as aforesaid; dost he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or one of the Vicars set forth by Authority to be there read by a Vicar or Deacon?

Can. 59. X. Dost your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism? and dost he prepare, and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop? and dost he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other heretics, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Law, and submitting to the Government thereof?

Can. 61. XI. Dost he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of moze yeare, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Dost he use to baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers? or Cap. 69. XII. admitt either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own Children?

Can. 68.

Cap. 29.

Can. 29.

XII. Dost

Articles of Visitation.

5

XII. hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preach Can. 5.
ed any False, Heretical, Seditionous, or Schismatical Doctrine,
thereby to seduce the people into parties and Factions, to the distur. 13 Q. Eliz. 12
bance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. hath he presumed to marry any persons in private houses? Can. 62.
whether as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents?
without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holidays
in the Church? or at any other hours than between eight and
twelve in the Morning, unless he had a Licence or Dispensation so
to do?

XIV. doth any person Preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Can. 52.
but he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before 14 Car. 2.
his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Com-
mon-Prayer? and is he in all things conforomable to the Laws and
Orders of the Church of England?

XV. hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick Can. 72.
private Fastes, Prophecyng or Exercises, not appointed by Au-
thority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay person,
bid any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within the Can. 73.
number of five persons, under the pretences of Preaching, Pray-
ing, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and
Canons in that case prohibited?

XVI. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer a man of a Can. 73.
litter, unblameable, and exemplary Life? Doth he familiarly con-
tact with ungodly, blitious, and excommunicate persons? Is he
thiupenter of Taberns, or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a
Drinker, Rafter, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at ba-
ttale one with another? or encourage them to Tuits and Conten-
ting? is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently
infected of incontinency with any person, either within your Pa-
rish, or without? Is his apparel grabe and decent, as the Canons
of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conuersation, in
any thing whatsoever disorderly and scandalous, and unbecoming
Minister of Jesus Christ.

Can. 74.

THE

Articles of Visitation.

Can. 110. Question & Answer concerning your Parishioners. **T. I. T. IV.** Question 4. What are the
Inhabitants of your Parish doing at this time? It would be best if
you could make a general **Concerning the Parishioners.**

Can. 110.

I. Is there in your parish any person a knoton, or reputed Heretic, or Schismatich; any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other heretic, that refuse to come unto the Publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church; or that makes profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England, and if there be any such, what are their names?

Can. 109.

II. Is there any person in your Parish that liveth under a common name, or belement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Irreligion? Are there any common Drunkards within your parish, or common Swearers or Blasphemers of God's Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or solvers of sedition, faction, and discord among their Neighbores?

5 & 6 Ed. 6.
Cap. 4.
Can. 13.
29 Car. 2.

1 Q. Eliz. 2.

III. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holidays, follow their bodily or ordinary labour, or permit their Servantes so to do? Are any shops kept open, or wares sold: or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer and Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their hauses upon those days?

Can. 18.

Can. 111.

Rub. Esp.

IV. Doth every person inhabiting, and sojourning within your Parish duly resort unto your Church or Chapel, upon every Sunday and Holiday appointed for Divine Services? Do they then and there abide quietly, with reverence, order, and decency, during all the whole time of Common Prayer, Preaching, or other Services of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to common Prayer of the Church?

V. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to admit of Infants children to be Baptized publicly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case the Child may be baptiz'd, or left by a lawfull Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Do they send them from their own Minister to be baptiz'd in any other Parishes, or after other form than is appointed? Do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish, as yet unbaptized?

Can. 59.

VI. Doth every Householder in your Parish cause their children and serbants to come to Church to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holidays, as in the Book of Common Prayer is appointed; that when they are

Articles of Visitation.

- VII. Is there any person in your Parish, who being 16 years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at least twice times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Those in your Parish refuse to receive the same, kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers, not of your Parish, parochial their own Churches, and usually repair to others for it? Can. 28. & 57.
- VIII. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? how long have they been decommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep Sacri^pt with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? Can. 55.
- IX. Are there any living in your Parish as Man and wife who within the degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully married have married again? Or any that being lawfully married and separated or divorced by course of Law do not cohabit together? Can. 107.
- X. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who, after delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? and when they come to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings according to Custom? Rub. Com. mon-Prayr.
- XI. Are there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their duty for Easter Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the rate assessed upon them for repair of your Church and Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, furniture and Ordinances as be requisite for the performance of Divine Offices there? 27 Hen. 8. 20. Rub. Com. Prayer. Can. 85.
- XII. Do any refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills and Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unprobed? Or any goods administered, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel? what were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed? Rub. Com. Prayer. Can. 6. Can. 92. 21 Hen. 8. 5. Lind.lib. 3. de Test.
- XIII. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parishioners their Pewts or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pewts erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?
- XIV. Is there any in your Parish who hath lately or heretofore given sum of Money to any Ecclesiastical Officer for Communion of Penance? what was the sum, and to what use hath it been employed?
- XV. Are there any in your Parish that are Blasphemers of Gods holy

Articles of Visitation.

Holy Name; & any common Drunkards or Swearers? or unmercifully known or justly suspected to be guilty of Fornication, Blasphemy, Incest, or any other crime of Ecclesiastical cognizance? declare who they are, that they may be proceeded against, and punished according to their deserts.

T I T. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

Can. 92.

I. **H**ath you belonging to your Church or Chappel & a Parish Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. Doth he, or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to your doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from Dust, Cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours, before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to meditate upon their own death, to recommend the dying person to the Grace and Favour of God?

T I T. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

2 Hen. 5. 1.
Q. Eliz.

A. 3. 4.

I. **D**o there in your Parish, any Hospital, almshouse, or Free School, not of the Kings Foundation or Patronage? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And when in the year is Revenue or Stipend, belonging to the Governores or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants and ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Ordinary? Doth the School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holidays orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

Can. 77.
Can. 79.

III. Doth

Articles of Visitation.

III. Both any Man in your Parish practise Physick, or Chyrur. 3 Hen. 8. 15.
or, if any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Mid-
wife, without approbation and licence from the Ordinary?

T I T. VII.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

I. Are there any Ecclesiastical Officers that exercise Ecclesiasti- Can. 137.
cal Jurisdiction within this Diocese, that demand, take, and
receive any extraordinary Fees for any cause that is transacted by
them, by virtue of their respective offices? And have any Abuses
or Offences presented by the Church-wardens or others, been by
them suppressed or left unpunished?

II. Is there a Table of Fees publickly fastned and set up in the Can. 136.
Consilary or Ecclesiastical Court, to which you are called to appear
and make your presentment, that so every one may know what
he is to pay, as the Canons enjoin.

III. Have any Apparitors taken any reward for the concealing
of any offence, or the abounding the punishment, or reformation of
Winders? and do they summon any to appear at the Consiliorum
without citation first had and granted from the Ecclesiastical Judge?

If you know of any other default or crime of ecclesiastical cogni-
tione, you are to present the same.

T I T. VIII.

Quires to be put to the Minister, Concerning the Church-Wardens
and Side-men.

I. Are the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly cho- Can. 89.
sen by the joint consent of the Minister and Parishioners,
one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?
What is the custom of the Parish is?

II. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their due Can. 89.
Bumps to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-
wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all
other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. Do the Church-wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and Can. 90.
to see that the Parishioners be absent from the Divine service and
Sermon in your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holidays?
And if they find any of them to have absented themselves without a
sufficient cause, do they by warrant from some of the Justices of
the Peace of them, by way of distress upon their goods the sum of 12 ^l Q. Eliz. 2.
sterling for every such day of their absence according to the Act of Par-
liament in that case proibid? And do they distribute the several sums
distrained among the Poor of your Parish according to the Law?

IV. Do they present them that come late to Church after Divine Can. 18.
Service is begun, or depart before it is ended? Do they suffer none Can. 19.

ANSWER

**REMEMBER, YOU'RE A MEMBER IN THE CHURCH OF GOD. WE
CANNOT BE SEPARATED, DURING THE LATEST DIVISIONS,
OR BY PARTIAL EFFECTS.**

Can. 18. V. That y suffer no mischievous or disorderly
women, or servants, or Children in your Church,
Can. 19. & that careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their
Comunion Table; Do you permit no
Drunks, no Dogs, Bators, or Fowlers to be
near your Church, in the disturbance of the Congregation.

Can. 10. VI. In every against every Communion appointed by
the Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white wine,
good wine, according to the number of Communicants.

Cm. 52. VII. Do they cause all strangers that go into their
Chappel to subscribe their names & the same day in a
box for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop
of them to Preach in this Dioces: & do they permit no other

Can. 119. VIII. Whereby the Church - members and their men
to give in a true answer, with all their verities of Con-
their federal Little, taken sufficient time to read over the
ments and then remitted with 200 their Philler 62
fit assistance.

THE Minister of every Parish, or the Curate in his absence, shall join in Presentments with the Church-wardens and others, and if they will not present, then the Ministers (being those that have the chief care upon them for the supplying of the poor in their Parishes) may present the Crimes aforesaid, and things as shall want due Reformation.

FOR know you assuredly, that as the true discharging
is the chief means whereby publick disorders, Sins and
in your Parish may be reformed and punished: So if you
refuse to present such crimes and faults as either you know to
be committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame; In
such cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against you in
the ecclesiastical Courts, as in cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

WILLIAM PETERBORG

THE Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the names of such of the younger sort in their several Parishes, as are fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to prevent those who have been Confirmed, especially such as having competently learned the chrismon, have not yet received the Holy Communion; and to return to the Bishop to be confirmed, as there shall be opportunity.